

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to cancel Claims 1 - 16 and add new Claims 17 - 36 as follows, this listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 16 (Cancelled)

17. (New) A brewing chamber of a coffee machine using a coffee pad, the brewing chamber comprising a top part having openings allowing water to be delivered to the brewing chamber, and a bottom part, wherein the top part is formed as a single integral piece.

18. (New) The brewing chamber according to claim 17, wherein the top part of the brewing chamber includes an outer seal.

19. (New) The brewing chamber according to claim 17, wherein the top part has a centrally located push-off element bulging downwardly from the top part and being formed from an elastic material, the push-off element providing a downwardly biasing force against the coffee pad to separate the coffee pad from the top part during removal of the coffee pad.

20. (New) The brewing chamber according to claim 19, wherein the push-off element is substantially hemispherical in its stress-relieved state.

21. (New) The brewing chamber according to claim 20, wherein the push-off element includes a star-shaped element having metal tongues.

22. (New) The brewing chamber according to claim 21, wherein the metal tongues are arranged between openings in the top part of the brewing chamber for entry of water.

23. (New) The brewing chamber according to claim 17, wherein the top part has an elevated structure on the side facing the brewing chamber.

24. (New) The brewing chamber according to claim 23, wherein the elevated structure includes circularly arranged ribs provided with gaps.

25. (New) The brewing chamber according to claim 24, wherein the circularly arranged ribs are arranged concentrically.

26. (New) The brewing chamber according to claim 24, wherein the gaps are arranged offset with respect to one another in the radial direction.

27. (New) The brewing chamber according to claim 23, wherein the openings are arranged in the gaps.

28. (New) The brewing chamber according to claim 18, wherein the outer seal of the top part is executed as a tab-shaped circular lip and the top part comprises a plurality of supporting ribs for preventing attachment of the tab-shaped lip to the top part.

29. (New) The brewing chamber according to claim 17, wherein the top part can be placed with a side facing away from the brewing chamber on the housing for the top part.

30. (New) The brewing chamber according to claim 29, wherein the side of the top part facing away from the brewing chamber comprises a projection whereby the top part can be engaged in the housing for the top part at lugs.

31. (New) The brewing chamber according to claim 30, wherein the projection is molded on the top part.

32. (New) A coffee machine for use with coffee pads comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a brewing chamber disposed within the housing for receiving coffee pads and being at least partially formed by a top part and a bottom part, the top part being formed as a single integral piece and having openings allowing water to be delivered into the brewing chamber.
33. (New) The coffee machine according to claim 32, wherein the top part of the brewing chamber includes an outer seal extending around an outer perimeter of the top part and a push-off element disposed near a central portion of the top element, the push-off element bulging downwardly from the top part and providing a downwardly biasing force against the coffee pad to separate the coffee pad from the top part during removal of the coffee pad.
34. (New) The coffee machine according to claim 33, wherein the push-off element is substantially hemispherical in a stress-relieved state.
35. (New) The coffee machine according to claim 33, wherein the push-off element includes a star-shaped element having metal tongues arranged between the openings in the top part of the brewing chamber for entry of water.
36. (New) The coffee machine according to claim 32, wherein the top part has an elevated structure disposed on a side of the top part facing the brewing chamber and including circularly arranged ribs provided with gaps, the ribs being arranged concentrically and the gaps being offset with respect to one another in a radial direction, the openings being arranged in the gaps.